Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 006121 ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 /018 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:DEREUTHER:LF APPROVED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER NEA/RA:DMORRISON USIA/INA:WMILLER

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P 112238Z JAN 77 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BEXP, SY

SUBJECT: 1977 DAMASCUS INTERNATIONAL FAIR

REF: USDOC WASHDC 276

- 1. THE POSSIBILITY NOW EXISTS THAT USIA WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO THE 1977 DAMASCUS FAIR. USIA HAS BEEN TASKED WITH SUPPORTING U.S. TRADE FAIR EXHIBITS IN TEN WORLDWIDE LOCATIONS WHERE SUCH PARTICIPATION WOULD HAVE IMPORTANT POLITICAL/PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT. USIA IS BUDGETING APPROXIMATELY FIFTEEN TO TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS PER FAIR AND IS INTERESTED IN DAMASCUS.
- 2. THE USIA PROGRAM IS STILL IN THE PLANNING STAGES AND WE DO NOT HAVE FULL DETAILS ON DISBURSEMENT CRITERIA. USIA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAS SUGGESTED, HOWEVER, THAT IF THE UNITED STATES WAS FACED WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF NOT PARTICIPATING AT ALL IN THE DAMASCUS FAIR DUE TO LACK OF FUNDS, THE USIA MONEY COULD BE USED AS START-UP FUNDS. OTHERWISE THE USIA PARTICIPATION WOULD SUPPLEMENT OUR REPRESENTATION AT THE DAMASCUS FAIR, WHICH WILL BE SEEDED FROM WHATEVER OTHER SOURCES YOU HAVE DEVELOPED.

- 3. ACTION REQUESTED: 1) THAT YOU DETERMINE WHETHER THE USIA CONTRIBUTION IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY TO ASSURE PARTICIPATION IN THE 1977 DAMASCUS FAIR; AND 2) THAT YOU PROVIDE US A STATEMENT JUSTIFICATION ON WHETHER THE POTENTIAL USIA EXPENDITURE WOULD ACHIEVE GENERAL USG POLITICAL/PSYCHOLOGICAL OBJECTIVES, AND ENHANCE THE IMAGE OF THE USG IN SYRIA.
- 4. PLEASE SLUG ANSWER FOR NEA/STADIS, IF POSSIBLE BY 19 JANUARY. ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 22 May 2009 Disposition Event: Disposition History: n/a
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